



# THE Tuzla Times

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September 6, 1996

"The Wings of Task Force Eagle"

## News Briefs

### Top 4 & First 5

The next Top 4 "Eagles Claw" meeting will be at 6 p.m. Saturday at the tower.

The next "First 5" Unit Advisory Committee meeting will be at 3 p.m. Sunday at PERSCO. The meeting will cover vice-president elections and career development.

### Commander's Call

The next Commander's Call will be at 8 a.m. Saturday in the fest tent.

Attendance is mandatory for everyone assigned to the 4100th.

### Honor Guard volunteers

The 4100th Group is looking for volunteers for the units first Honor Guard. The Honor Guard will participate in multi-national ceremonies, flag details and ceremonies for distinguished visitors. No experience necessary. Call Senior Airman Pat Hodge at ext. 134 for more information.

### Birthday Call

Happy Birthday to everyone assigned to the 4100th Group who celebrates a birthday this week!

Col. Paul Cooper, Maj. Stephen Beecher and Maj. Paul Suarez each have a birthday today. Staff Sgt Paul Reaves celebrates Sunday; Staff Sgt. Daniel Swenson's birthday is Monday and Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Staudinger's is Tuesday.

### Task Force Eagle Scoreboard



Scheduled:	3,925
Total Flown:	3,320
PAX:	28,457
Cargo (Short Tons):	24,926
Vehicles:	1,301
Patients Medevaced:	649



Image by Senior Airman Phillip Ulmer

Tech. Sgt. Bob Alley, 4100th Group (P) Communications Flight rekeys one of the radios digital encryption standard systems recently.

## 4100th keeps 'em in touch

by 1st Lt. Troy Kitch  
86th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Communications of all sorts keep the mission moving smoothly here. Aircraft movements proceed, voice and data lines are open, and families are in touch.

This base has served a critical role as the in-theater end of the NATO air bridge that keeps the IFOR contingent supplied. The success of that mission relies heavily upon accurate, sustained communications support here.

Staff Sgt. Paul Reaves, a meteorological navigation technician from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, maintains local communications that are critical to weather equipment and non-directional beacon sites here — services vital to aircrews. Reaves and his team work side by side with their Bosnian counterparts.

"The (Bosnian) technicians are incredible; they've kept these sites up for four years in war with no spare parts," Reaves said.

Just as the flow of supplies are critical to the operation here, so is the smooth transportation of information for the 200 Air Force members deployed here. Ramstein's 1st Combat Communications Squadron built a local area network here, its first in a bare

base environment.

According to Maj. Paul Suarez, Operations Squadron commander, deployed here from USAF's Small Computer System Squadron at Ramstein, the LAN system here is nothing short of revolutionary as a business and morale tool.

"Now people can get on the Internet and deal with the Air Force Personnel Center, Air Force home pages, companies that provide and service equipment here — and there are no problems with time differences," Suarez said.

The information "superhighway" here is actually a two-way street with its Tuzla home page, a tool designed for families at home and newcomers set to deploy here.

With the Internet access comes e-mail connections, a modern-day morale call tool for those with family and friends who can receive the messages. For those without e-mail, there are always the standard telephone morale calls.

"I haven't kept track ... but the number of morale calls per day is usually well over 100," said Staff Sgt. Brady Burdge, NCO in charge of telephone switchboards and day shift operator. "Connecting morale calls is definitely the best part of operating the switchboard," he said.

# Election deadlines near

*As the Bosnian and American elections close in, more people are takeing a closer look at the election process*

by Major Ralph "Ivan" Johnson  
Voting Correspondent



We, as Americans, have it lucky. We are currently assigned to brand a new country that has no history of voting in open, free elections. Bosnia, as a contemporary country, has only existed since 1991. During most of the time it has been in a state of civil war, with two other successor states of the former Yugoslavia, Croatia and Serbia.

Prior to the breakup, the country was ruled by the Communist party under its leader, Josef Broz Tito, who led the Party from 1937 to 1980. Tito's rule was less harsh than his fellow communist dictators. He maintained an iron hand on political life allowing very little political opposition. Political dissidents were jailed in the early years, in some cases even executed. Their 'crimes' of dissidence were mild when compared to what we tolerate in the United States. We wouldn't even bat an eye.

The people of Bosnia and Herzegovina have started to vote in multi-party elections for the first time in almost five years. Under the General Framework Agreement for Peace, there are to be elections at several governmental levels to decide on a new government for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

They will vote for local, canton and federation level candidates, based on where they lived for the last census before the breakup of the Former Yugoslavia in

1991. This requires that refugees who are not living where they were in 1991 to vote by returning to where they lived or by absentee ballot. Many of the refugees started to vote August 31, 1996.

Sounds simple enough? throw in the nature of the situation here, with the three Former Warring Factions jostling each other for positions by threats, assaults, corruption, bluffs or whatever means available to sway the vote to their desired direction. Consequently, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe has postponed the municipal elections until next year.

Some parties, such as the Republika Srbska, want the elections postponed or canceled since an election could void their hold on the territory they seized during the war.

Others want the elections on schedule without any further preconditions or



# VOTE!

delays.

That is why we are here. Our job is to support the balloting process, if need be, by the presence of a military force. Ironically, to help ensure the elections are held without violence. Other groups, such as the OSCE, will oversee the actual balloting, but we will keep the peace. Imagine, though, if this happened in the United States. How would you feel to have lost the right to vote in this manner? And a foreign army comes in to ensure

elections?

For the faults our election process has, we are extremely lucky to have developed the tradition of voting that we have. In order to maintain that tradition of free voting it is necessary you vote to express your concern for who represents you at all levels of our government.

If you are not registered to vote, you can't help determine the course of our national policy. As simple as that.

A recent addition to the voting process this year is the ability to vote electronically via fax. We can fax the ballot to the Federal Voting Assistance Program office at the Pentagon. The office validates the fax and passes it on to the respective state for counting. There are two glitches; the first is that voting electronically is not secure. By faxing your vote, you waive your right to a secret ballot, and two, not all states allow electronic voting.

The deadline for registering to vote is

near. Election requirements for deployed military members vary from state to

state. Anyone who is a non-registered voter should submit their Federal Post Card Application so it arrives at least 60 days before the election. That means you need to see the voting officer, me, to get your form into your local voting official. I have the requirements your state has to complete your registration. The FPCA is easy to fill out and send off.

To conclude, you can't complain about the government you get if you don't vote. Procrastination is no excuse.



**THE Tuzla Times**

Published for the men and women of the 4100th Group (P)

"The Wings of Taskforce Eagle"

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4100th Group (P) Commander

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**Senior Airman Tom Haerr**

Admin Dude



**Airman 1st Class  
Zachary A. McCabe**

*4100th Group (P) Fire Protection*

**Hometown:** LaVesnia, Texas

**Age:** 20

**Specialty:** Fire Protection Apprentice

**Home Unit:** 100th Civil Engineering Squadron, Royal Air Force Mildenhall, U.K.

**Time in service:** 2 years

**Time at Tuzla:** 30 days

**Hobbies:** Volleyball and golf.

**Deployed mission:** I provide fire protection for the Group, to include aircraft and structural fires. I also provide emergency medical response and hazardous material on base.

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years?** I see myself as high school history teacher and baseball coach.

**What do you like most about Tuzla?** I like seeing all the different types of people from different specialties working together towards one mission.

**What do you like the least?** Not being able to get off base and see the beautiful country.



Image by Senior Airman Phillip Ulmer

Staff Sgt. Joe Knapp, 4100th Group (P) Finance, briefs a new arrival about the financial benefits of being assigned to the Group in support of Operation Joint Endeavor.

## IRS provides tax relief for those deployed to hazardous duty areas

by Staff Sgt. Joe "Dollar" Knapp  
*Financial Correspondent*



Would you like \$100 to \$200 extra dollars in your pocket each month? Sounds to good to be true you say? Hey, it's the least Uncle Sam can do for you while you're deployed to Tuzla Air Base.

Now that you have stopped jumping around the room and finished wiping the drool off your chin from hearing the good news, I will explain the tax relief benefit provided to you from your friendly Internal Revenue Service.

The Act of March 20, 1996 "the Act," Public law # 104-117, 110 Stat. 827 (1996), is for U.S. military and support personnel involved in the peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia and

Herzegovina, Croatia, and Macedonia.

The Act generally provides that members of the U.S. Armed Forces performing services for the peacekeeping efforts in a "qualified hazardous duty area" are treated for tax purposes in the same manner as if the area were a combat zone. The Act defines the term "qualified hazardous duty area" to mean Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, or Macedonia.

If you serve in a qualified hazardous duty area for any part of a month, all your military pay received for military service that month is excluded from gross income. Amounts excluded from gross income are not subject to federal income tax. That's it in a nutshell.

To start your tax relief, visit me at the tower, building 50. Ensure you bring in one copy of your orders. Next week I will discuss the American Express Travel Card.

